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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

"BATTLING BOB'S" CRUDE FOOTWORK.

Robert Marion La Follette, running wild for president of the United States, knows his business. As a proselyter he has taken a hint from the apostle who advised his disciples, "I am made all things unto all men."

One of these has to do with the supreme court of the United States. In his Madison Square Garden speech he says: "The federal courts, particularly the supreme court, have declared unconstitutional or otherwise nullified the most important legislation enacted by congress within the last few years."

Such a statement, standing alone, is unworthy of even such a demagogue as La Follette is proving himself to be. He follows it with another, which makes his purpose plainer: "Always these decisions of the court are on the side of the wealthy and the powerful and against the poor and the weak when it is the policy of the lawmaking branch of the government to assist by enlightened and humanitarian legislation."

No more open attempt to array one part of the American people against another ever was made. "Battling Bob" as a boxer is awkward. His footwork is crude. He cites no instances, preferring to deal in generalities. He must have gasped at his own temerity, when he recalled the fact that the supreme court of the United States has held the La Follette seaman's act to be good law, despite the effort of powerful shipping combinations to nullify its provisions.

Such knowledge does not serve the end to which "Battling Bob" is striving. When the income tax act was declared unconstitutional, it was because congress was forbidden in the Constitution from enacting such legislation. An amendment to the Constitution of the United States cured the difficulty. That was not in the interest of "the wealthy and powerful," but for the good of all. So it is with other acts. Child labor is unpopular, but congress is forbidden by the Constitution from legislating on the subject, just as it is forbidden to enact a general divorce law, or laws regulating the punishment of crimes within a state. Now the states are asked to give consent to the enactment of such laws by congress. When this consent is given, the supreme court will not hold the law to be unconstitutional.

The supreme court does not veto any law. Its powers are to examine laws and determine if they are such as are permitted by the Constitution. If so found, they are upheld by the court. If not, it is because congress has exceeded its powers, and is held in check by the Constitution.

What La Follette seeks is to have authority given to congress to declare any of its enactments good, regardless of the fundamental law that creates congress and limits its powers. We have already called attention to the confusion that will certainly follow the adoption of any such rule. Legislation will be in line with popular whim, not following the course charted by the fundamental law of the land. The mob will be substituted for the Constitution, and whichever faction happens to gain control at the moment will direct the course of events.

That means the end of order and stability. It will be a glorious day for the La Follettes, who risk nothing but their time. What about the thrifty, industrious, frugal and prosperous citizens, whose all will be at stake? Even in Russia the soviets are striving to establish government under a written constitution, while La Follette and his mixed crowd of socialists and communists are working to destroy such government in the United States. What a travesty on good sense!

WAY OF A BIRD IN THE AIR.

Solomon marveled at the flight of the fowl, and admitted he could not understand its ways. Modern duck hunters endorse that statement, and would like to shake hands with the wise king. A news item tells of some farmer boys being fined for shooting ducks out of season. Until September 16 the duck is protected by law, and may not be shot without danger of facing the court. However, we imagine that the story has to do with some wildgeons or butternuts, who are just peering around the stubble fields, sort of shaming with the prairie chicken. The real southward flight of the duck has not yet commenced.

Presently the storm king will extend his lines, and the marshes in Manitoba and Minnesota will begin to freeze up. Then the old ducks will marshal their flocks, and the real migration will be on. South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado lakes and ponds will be filled with the visitors, who will pause here long enough to get the taste of wild rice out of their craws by gormandizing on corn and winter wheat. One rancher out in Box Butte county last fall declared the visiting ducks had cost him at least a third of his corn.

That is natural. What this is intended to tell about, however, is the wisdom of the duck. He, or she, as the case may be, has discovered certain lakes and ponds in western Nebraska where shooting is not permitted. Uncounted numbers of duck bob up and down on the wavelets of these protected waters, quacking derisively at the hunters passing by, headed for lakes where the birds seldom alight. We have it on good authority that the quacks are derisive. What the hunters would like to know is who told the ducks they would be immune in certain spots and fair game in others?

Addressing the Holy Name society on Sunday, President Coolidge put himself squarely on record as to the Klan or any similar organization. He did not give vent to any furious denunciation. He did not indulge in any periods of flamboyant oratory. Just in a plain, simple way he pointed out that the Constitution of the United States guarantees to every citizen among other things full religious liberty. There is to be no religious test for office under our government.

The president stands on this, for he is sworn to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." No higher duty can devolve upon any man, and it is equally the duty of every American citizen. No question has ever arisen as to the fidelity of the president of the United States to his solemn oath of office. The man who occupies the White House as chief executive of the nation is faithful to the interests and concerns of every citizen of the whole country. He is faithful to them as a whole and singly, too, so far as they may be affected by the law.

It was not ill-timed, however, that the president should take the occasion offered him to reassure those who might feel apprehension because of widespread and imprudent agitation. His exposition of the theory and practice of our system of government was one of the clearest and soundest utterances since he has been president. Our institutions will endure, he said, because they are based on eternal principles. Liberty is individual, and is so confirmed and protected under the law.

The tenets of the Holy Name society indicate, the president says, the foundation of the liberty we enjoy. Reverence for God is the support of human institutions. We would like to put in a word right here for the society. Although organized under the auspices of the Roman Catholic church, its membership should include all creeds, sects, denominations. Especially is it aimed at profane swearing, the taking lightly of the name of the Creator in vain. No apologist or practitioner of profanity has ever succeeded in justifying his habit. Swearing is merely a habit, easy to contract, difficult to overcome. Against it the society has made little headway. The Holy Name group has a worthy object, and should be imitated by all. Liberty is a fine thing. It can be enjoyed without the resort to profanity.

OLD LEAGUE IN NEW CLOTHES. Certain definite information is coming out from Geneva concerning the tinkering of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Not much in detail, beyond the fact that the leaders are working to make air-tight Article XVI of the existing covenant. This is the one that provides for the economic boycott of any recalcitrant nation. One of the amendments makes any nation not promptly submitting any grievance to arbitration an "aggressor" to be subjected to all the penalties that attach to making war.

Premier Benes of Czechoslovakia is credited with the draft that is being considered. John Corbin, cables from Geneva to the New York Times the information that the Benes draft is regarded there as a victory for France and the "Little Entente" over England. Under the security provision of the proposed covenant, England will be required to come to the aid of either of the others, or any other member of the league whenever the powers of Article XVI may be invoked. In Europe Germany and Russia are being guarded against by France and the Slav states. Some have said that in America the United States is considered. England's naval power will be directed against our ports, should we unfortunately be looked upon, even technically, as an "aggressor."

The amendments have not as yet been acted upon by the council of the league, so it is not yet to get excited over any of them. Other nations are not entirely "sold" on the idea of compulsory arbitration, although all sincerely wish to outlaw war. The Benes draft seems to be calculated chiefly to draw England, and possibly the United States, into a combination that will guarantee France against Germany, and Czechoslovakia against Russia. It is the old League of Nations in new clothing, with teeth in Article XVI, to which the United States already has noted exceptions.

Bert Wheeler says that Dawes is kidnapping the constitution. That is nothing to what "Battling Bob" proposes to do with it. Cal Coolidge will have one advantage over his rivals. He will get to see the World Series. Legionnaires think they had a good time at St. Paul, but "they ain't seen nothin' yet."

Old King Ak is back on the job, all right.

Homespun Verse
By Omaha's Own Post—
Robert Worthington Davis
TOOTHACHE
Of all of the grief and despair that I've met
There's none that I'd like to forsake—
There's none that I'd like to avoid and forget
As much as the dreadful toothache.

It takes all the zest of my mellowing years,
It takes the sunshine from my life;
It leaeth me into the valley of tears,
And drives to distraction my wife.
It bringeth my children to reticence stern
The miserable while that it stays,
And maketh them hope for a speedy return
Of normally joyous days.
It blandly defies theistic relief,
It's Satan avowed and perverse;
There's nothing at all, in my honest belief,
From start to the finish that's worse.

They're Improving the Science of War so We Won't Mind It Any More Than Removing Our Tonsils



SOMEBODY HAS DISCOVERED A GAS THAT WILL PUT A WHOLE NATION TO SLEEP FOR 48 HOURS



AND AN AERIAL BOMB THAT WILL PULVERIZE EVERYTHING WITHIN SIX HUNDRED YARDS.

Letters From Our Readers

Triumph for La Follette. Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The politicians drafted the election laws of all the states. They did their best to make it impossible for independent candidates to get before the voters. The two old parties wanted a monopoly. Hence Pool's stand against Dan Butler. When the independents examined the California election laws they found that in order to place La Follette and Wheeler electors on the official ballot they must prepare a petition bearing the names of 25,000 qualified voters, and that each voter must sign the petition 14 times—once for each elector, and once "at large"—and that every signature must be acknowledged before a notary public. That was some job in view of the fact that the progressives did not have even a skeleton of an organization in the state. The miraculous part of the performance—instead of 25,000 voters, 50,000 voters signed the La Follette and Wheeler petition, and each voter put down his "John Hancock" 14 times, a total of 700,000 signatures! And the entire job was completed in one day!

Is it any wonder that the old-time politicians are in a blue funk, and that the progressives are confident that California's 13 electoral votes will be placed in the La Follette and Wheeler column in November? A great holler has gone up about Maine going republican. It always has in presidential years. But, California rejected Hughes and elected Wilson. Hence, there is every reason to believe the golden state will play an equally important role in the election of 1924. Hence, the elephant and the donkey need to watch out! F. PHILIP HAFNER.

Probably, Perhaps, Possibly. Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: William J. Bryan is keeping so quiet that we are beginning to believe he really desired that the democratic ticket should be elected. "Columbia Record." That's not the reason: He's so sure that it won't be elected that he doesn't want to take any chances of anyone saying "John Hancock" 14 times, a total of 700,000 signatures. Does Bill think Charlie the equal of John W. Davis? Who would Bill

Abe Martin

Oh, 'th' doctor says she'll get back 't' her old self now that school has taken up," said Art Smiley 'd'ay, when somebody asked about his wife, who's been nearly crazy all summer. You can't mix booze with your business unless you're a bootlegger. (Copyright, 1924.)

SUNNY SIDE UP
Take Comfort, nor forget,
That Sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Thaxter

A cute little red squirrel in a cage in a Farnam street window. Nose raw and bleeding because of efforts to gnaw its way through wire bars. Keeps it up hour after hour. Always a group looking through window to watch little animal making futile struggles for freedom. "Isn't he sweet?" chief comment of women. Our own comments not printable.

Hundreds grab for The Omaha Bee "pink" to study the racing reports and form sheet. Chief topics of corner groups and on street cars. Wonder how many of them will register and vote on election day.

A little dash into northeastern corner of Nebraska. Corn looking wonderfully fine, but most of it needs a couple of weeks more of warm weather. Corn and alfalfa chief products of that section; comparatively little wheat. Prosperous looking section, and people feeling the impulse of prosperity. Not talking politics very much, but close observers declare there is insubstantial La Follette sentiment and growing Coolidge sentiment.

We feel sorry for the man who imagines he has to drive to work each morning in his auto. Nothing more exhilarating than an after-breakfast walk of from 15 to 30 blocks. Nebraska ozone full of "pep" and inspiration. Deep breaths better than draughts from Ponce de Leon's spring. The man who is not greatly benefited by such a walk should put his who is not greatly benefited by such a walk should put his

Fuzzy hats redolent. Something tells us that hidden away in dark recesses of closet we have one. Must dig it up if possible. Otherwise may be compelled to have recourse to cap of the vintage of '23; growing increasingly difficult to keep up. Must Pass a Law About It.

By the way, wouldn't one of those old arc lights attract about as much attention now as it did something like 45 years ago when first introduced?

It is a little early, perhaps, but we believe in preparedness. Why not begin now making arrangements to use the skeleton of the Medical Arts building for a municipal Christmas tree?

We have found it. No, we absolutely refuse to disclose its location, fearful of an ensuing rush that will compel us to wait. It is a barber shop where the barber did not slip a hot towel on our face and leave it there while he discussed the races. He shaved us in silence, and finished the job in a most satisfactory manner without suggesting a shampoo, some hair tonic, a hair trim, a massage or anything else. He said "thank you" when we paid the bill, and, although we failed to give a tip, he invited us to come again. We will.

After reviewing a half-dozen books recently, all pretty good samples of modern novels, we took an evening off and read "Treasure Island" and had a really good time.

You have 364 days a year in which to boast of your patriotism and love of country. You have one day on which to prove that you mean it. WILL M. MAUPIN.

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Atlantic Express . . . 3:45 p.m. 7:10 a.m.
Chicago Special . . . 6:00 p.m. 7:25 a.m.
Los Angeles Limited (*) 7:32 p.m. 8:50 a.m.
Overland Limited (*) 7:35 p.m. 8:55 a.m.
Portland Limited . . . 8:15 p.m. 9:35 a.m.
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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of August, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY,
Notary Public

PANCO
The Sole of a Nation
Will Tell You in
The Omaha Bee
Next Saturday
How to Save
Money.